

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03808 01 OF 02 180246Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 OMB-01 /037 W

----- 058204

R 180150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3137

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

RHMOGOA CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 3808

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (FMTP)

REF: STATE 51768

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO THE QUERIES POSED
IN THE SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF PARA 5 OF REFTEL:

A. IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF PRICE INCREASES ON BILATERAL
RELATIONS. THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES (AFP) WERE INFORMED
IN JANUARY 1976 OF THE PROBABLE COST INCREASES FOR MILI-
TARY TRAINING. THE REACTION TO DATE HAS BEEN ONE OF
"BUSINESS AS USUAL." THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES
IN THE AFP'S APPROACH TO THE FMTP. THIS MAY CHANGE
QUICKLY, HOWEVER, WHEN NEW TRAINING PRICES COME INTO
EFFECT.

B. (1) TYPES OF TRAINING OR SPECIFIC COURSES OF
GREATEST INTEREST TO AFP. THE AFP'S OBJECTIVES UNDER THE
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PAGE 02 MANILA 03808 01 OF 02 180246Z

FMTP ARE (A) TO DEVELOP THE EXPERTISE AND THE SYSTEMS

NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND (B) TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT OF A PHILIPPINE TRAINING CAPABILITY. THE AFP BELIEVES THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAINING FACILITIES FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS ARE FOUND AT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AND AT THE ADVANCED OFFICER COURSES PROVIDED BY THE SEVERAL U.S. SERVICES. THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COURSES PROVIDED BY THE DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT EDUCATION CENTER ARE ALSO PARTICULARLY VALUABLE AND HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER BY AFP OFFICERS. IN ADDITION, THE AFP WANTS U.S. TRAINING TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT RECEIVED FROM THE U.S., INCLUDING THE EX-CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE ASSETS ACQUIRED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COLLAPSE OF INDOCHINA.

B. (2) PAYMENT FOR TRAINING AND LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE PAYMENT AT NEW PRICES. THE AFP WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT THE TRAINING IT RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED BY GRANT AID (FMTP). INTERNAL GOP FUNDING PRIORITIES AND GROWING BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE AFP TO FIND FUNDS TO SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY AT THE NEW PRICE LEVELS. IN A FEW EXCEPTIONAL CASES, THE AFP MIGHT TURN TO FMS SALES FOR U.S. TRAINING IT BELIEVES ESSENTIAL FOR ITS SELF RELIANCE OBJECTIVES. TO THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE AFP HAS PAID FOR ONLY ONE U.S. TRAINING PROGRAM--A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MOBILE TRAINING TEAM WITH ONE MONTH OF FOLLOW-ON FACULTY TRAINING AT THE DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT EDUCATION CENTER.

B. (3) MEETING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. IF THE GRANT U.S. TRAINING PROGRAM DIMINISHES BECAUSE OF HIGHER COSTS, THE AFP MAY RESTRICT ITS TRAINING IN THE U.S. TO INSTRUCTOR REPLACEMENT ONLY AND TURN INCREASINGLY TO THIRD COUNTRIES FOR ITS OTHER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOP MAY TRY TO SECURE DURING UP-COMING BASE NEGOTIATIONS A GREATER LEVEL OF U.S. TRAINING FOR THE AFP IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THAT SPAIN SECURED U.S. TRAINING AS PART OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS RECENTLY CONCLUDED THERE.

C. (1) TYPES OF TRAINING OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO U.S.
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PAGE 03 MANILA 03808 01 OF 02 180246Z

NATIONAL INTEREST. THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, NAVAL STAFF COLLEGE AND AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE OFFER PARTICULARLY USEFUL BENEFITS. THESE SCHOOLS HAVE A VERY HIGH REPUTATION IN AFP CIRCLES AND ASSIGNMENTS TO THEM ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER BY THE BETTER AND MORE COMPETITIVE AFP OFFICERS. THESE OFFICERS USUALLY RETURN TO INFLUENTIAL STAFF OR FACULTY JOBS WITH A POSITIVE VIEW OF THE U.S. AND ITS DEFENSE SYSTEM. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE FROM THE U.S. POINT

OF VIEW ARE THOSE SPECIALIZED COURSES WHICH UPGRADE SKILLS IN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR THE MAP PROGRAM AND FOR PROPER UTILIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT RECEIVED FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE.

C. (2) GRANT AID TRAINING PROVIDED. MOST OF THE QUATAS USED FOR THE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGES ARE PRESENTLY FUNDED UNDER MAP. OUR GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH AFP GROWTH IN SIZE AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND WE HAVE SOUGHT TO HAVE THE GRANT AID DOLLAR GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING RAISED. WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MOVING FROM \$400,000 IN FY 75 TO \$600,000 IN FY 77. IT IS BELIEVED THAT AN ANNUAL LEVEL OF \$800,000 IS NOW NEEDED TO MEET GROWING REQUIREMENTS AND THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO DEVELOP PLANS TO MOVE TO A \$2 MILLION PROGRAM WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE U.S. OBJECTIVES.

C. (3) EFFECT OF DOUBLING COSTS. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF U.S. TRAINING FOR THE AFP COULD NOT BE CONTINUED IF TRAINING COSTS WERE DOUBLED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT FUNDING INCREASES. IF FUNDING IS NOT INCREASED, THE AFP WILL UTILIZE AVAILABLE FMTP FUNDS FOR AS MANY COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE SLOTS AS IT CAN GET AND PROBABLY BEGIN TO LOOK TO THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES FOR ITS OTHER TRAINING NEEDS.

D. TRAINING ABANDONED BECAUSE OF INCREASED COSTS. AS INDICATED IN C(3) ABOVE, PRIMARY EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED BY THE AFP ON COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE COURSES IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED TRAINING COSTS. A SECONDARY PRIORITY, IF THERE IS ANY MONEY LEFT, WOULD BE ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINING COURSES FOR OFFICERS. THE NEXT PRIORITY WOULD BE RESOURCES MANAGE-
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PAGE 04 MANILA 03808 01 OF 02 180246Z

MENT COURSES AND, AFTER THAT, TECHNICAL/SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES.

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03808 02 OF 02 180320Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 OMB-01 /037 W

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R 180150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 3808

E. EFFECTS OF OBTAINING EQUIVALENT TRAINING. THE AFP WOULD ACTIVELY LOOK TO THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES FOR TRAINING. THE AFP IS ALREADY USING COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGES IN AUSTRALIA, WEST GERMANY, INDONESIA, SPAIN, GREAT BRITAIN AND INDIA. THE AFP HAS ALSO RECEIVED TECHNICAL TRAINING IN JAPAN AND ITALY. THE AFP WOULD TURN INCREASINGLY TO THESE SOURCES. SUCH A DIVERSITY OF TRAINING WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO AFP MILITARY PLANNING AND COMPETENCE AND WOULD PROBABLY ALSO LEAD TO A DECLINE IN AFP INTEREST IN U.S. MILITARY DOCTRINE AND MATERIAL. THE U.S. COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF TRAINING COURSES REPRESENT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF U.S. "INFLUENCE TRAINING."

F. IMPACT OF ELIMINATION OF GRANT TRAINING. THE ELIMINATION OF GRANT TRAINING WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT THE U.S. TRAINING OBJECTIVES OF HELPING THE AFP DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETENCE FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. ALL BRANCHES OF THE AFP HAVE EXPANDED STEADILY DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN COMBAT ARMS. THERE WILL BE CONTINUED GROWTH
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PAGE 02 MANILA 03808 02 OF 02 180320Z

AS THE SERVICES NOW TURN TO FLESHING OUT SUPPORT ELEMENTS. THERE IS A PARTICULAR NEED FOR TRAINING IN MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS. THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO DEVELOP QUICKLY THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN NEWLY ACQUIRED AIR AND NAVAL ASSETS FROM INDOCHINA, JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE. ACQUISITION OF THE FORMER RVN/CAMBODIAN SHIPS INTRODUCES, FOR EXAMPLE, 5" GUNS, RAPID FIRE 3"/50 GUNS,

AND AN ARRAY OF FIRE CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC GEAR WHICH WILL BE ENTIRELY NEW TO THE AFP.

THE PRESENT LEADERS OF THE AFP, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, ARE PRODUCTS OF THE PRE-WORLD WAR II AMERICAN MILITARY SYSTEM. THESE OFFICERS GREW UP AND WERE COMMISSIONED UNDER U.S. TUTELAGE AND ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY FAVOR ANYTHING AMERICAN. THE ONE EXCEPTION IS THE YOUNG P.C. CHIEF MAJ. GEN. RAMOS, AND HIS IS A GRADUATE OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY. WHEN THESE LEADERS RETIRE, WHICH COULD BE VERY SOON FOR ALL BUT MG RAMOS, THEY WILL BE REPLACED BY MEN WHO ARE POST-WW II PRODUCTS OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE AFP ROTC TRAINING. THESE MEN ARE MUCH LESS INCLINED TO ACCEPT UNCRITICALLY ANYTHING AMERICAN. THEY ARE BY NO MEANS ANTI-U.S.--IN FACT, THEY SHARE THE GENERALLY PRO-U.S. ATTITUDE OF FILIPINOS AT LARGE--BUT THEY ARE NOT THE PRODUCTS OF THE U.S. SYSTEM AS ARE THE PRESENT LEADERS. IT HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR THAT AMONG THE YOUNGER OFFICERS, THOSE WHO ARE MOST POSITIVELY U.S. ORIENTED ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE ATTENDED OUR SERVICE SCHOOLS. BRINGING AFP OFFICERS TO CONUS SCHOOLS--AND ONLY THE BEST OF THEM NORMALLY ARE PICKED TO GO--HAS PAID AND WILL CONTINUE TO PAY BIG DIVIDENDS.

2. BY WAY OF A BROAD POLICY FOOTNOTE TO THE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ABOVE OF PURELY MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE NEW AND DIFFERENT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPING IN THE AFP. AS AFP RESPONSIBILITIES EXPAND INCREASINGLY FROM MILITARY TO CIVIL FUNCTIONS IN A MARTIAL LAW ENVIRONMENT LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME TO COME, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEGIN EXPLORING HOW THE FOCUS OF U.S. TRAINING MIGHT BE BROADENED FROM PURELY MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS TO ENCOMPASS THE AFP'S NEW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NATION BUILDING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MANILA 03808 02 OF 02 180320Z

CIVIL RELATIONS, ETC.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MOST CIVIL TRAINING OF THIS TYPE CAN NOT BE PROVIDED THROUGH TRADITIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CHANNELS. AT THE SAME TIME, IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT AND INFLUENCE WITH THE RISING LEADERS IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO PROVIDE THE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER TRAINING IN CIVIL SUBJECTS WHICH THE AFP INCREASINGLY NEEDS. THIS QUESTION WILL BE DEVELOPED FURTHER IN A LATER MESSAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COSTS, MILITARY TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA03808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0987
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760347/aaaabpdl.tel
Line Count: 274
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 51768
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (FMTP)
TAGS: MASS, RP, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006